



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

**Tuesday, February 14, 2023; 12:00 p.m.
Central Administration Offices**

Committee members present were Superintendent Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mrs. Krissy Kilwein (representing Berg Elementary PAC), Mrs. Barb Shockey (representing Prairie Rose Elementary PAC), Mrs. Stephanie Rogers (representing Roosevelt Elementary PAC), Mrs. Laura Fetting (representing Lincoln Elementary PAC), and Mrs. Stacy Kilwein (representing Partners in Parenting and West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center).

Call to Order –Superintendent Dr. Lewton called the meeting to order at noon.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda Items – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Approval of the January 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Krissy Kilwein moved to approve the January 10, 2023, meeting minutes. Mrs. Barb Shockey seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

February 14, 2023, School Board Meeting Agenda –A copy of the agenda for tonight’s Board Meeting was distributed to the committee members. Superintendent Lewton highlighted topics from the agenda.

There were many celebrations posted from the District. Dr. Lewton noted the celebrations included Mrs. Audrey Kuntz receiving the Stark County Spirit of Excellence Award, DPS receiving a \$2.27 million grant for mental health, Mr. Pete Dobitz receiving the Western Edge Coach of the Year, West Dakota Family and Parent Resource Center receiving the Western Edge Best Parent Resources/Support, Mrs. Kathy Mavity receiving the World Changer Award from Evergreen for her and her class’s support to Evergreen, Dickinson High School Social Studies Instructor Trevor Conrad receiving the 2022-2023 Educator of the Year award, Early Childhood Program Paraprofessional Dana Turcotte receiving the 2022-2023 Classified Staff of the Year award, Marathon Oil providing \$15,000 in funds for curriculum material, three Dickinson High School seniors selected as Presidential Scholars, Heart River Elementary receiving recognition from the North Dakota Department of Instruction for their growth on accountability as a Title 1 school, and many more.

Dr. Lewton explained that four of the six elementary schools are at or near maximum student capacity. Berg Elementary and Prairie Rose Elementary have some space. At tonight’s meeting, the Board will begin a preliminary discussion regarding boundary line changes or adjustments to address overcrowding in some of the elementary schools.

Tonight, the Board will receive information on Dibels testing of reading fluency. Dr. Lewton noted as students learn to read, they read to learn and then do not struggle as much with comprehension.

Dickinson High School Principal Jeff Brandt will provide the Board with information on the A/B schedule at the high school. The recommendation is to keep the A/B schedule but adjust the days. The proposal would have the classes for Day A meet on Mondays and Thursdays, the Day B meet on Tuesdays and Fridays, and Wednesdays continue to be a late start with students having all classes in a condensed schedule.

Dr. Lewton reported the Board will consider adding five positions funded by a \$2.2 million grant to address mental health.

Building A of the Southwest Area Career and Technical Education Academy should be ready to open in approximately two weeks. The contractors have been waiting for lights to come in which arrived this week. Funding for the renovations in building C have recently been provided. The Board will consider three positions at tonight's meeting. The positions are for an agriculture teacher, a heavy equipment operator/CDL, and a culinary instructor. Funding for these positions have been secured by CTE Director Aaron Anderson so it will be no cost to the District.

Superintendent Lewton referenced a policy the Board will consider tonight regarding paying classified employees on storm days. The proposed revisions to the policy will provide flexibility on virtual days to pay classified staff. There could be professional development for the classified employees on storm days. The revisions to the policy will also pay those essential workers one and a half times their normal pay for working on the storm days. The consensus of the committee was to have a second adult participate in the Zoom virtual instruction time to monitor postings. It is difficult for a teacher to provide instruction on Zoom and also monitor postings. Dr. Lewton will visit with his Cabinet regarding this recommendation.

The effects COVID has had on learning. - Dr. Lewton reported there is data available that shows how DPS compares to other Districts in the Nation. He explained DPS did well with North Dakota Districts performing better than the national average. One area DPS did not do as well as was 8th grade reading and middle school mathematics. Those students with English as a second language struggled during COVID. English as a second language students do better when they are immersed in the English language more consistently. Mrs. Krissy Kilwein suggested sharing this information in the superintendent's State of the District. She felt parents would like to know how the learning during COVID affected the District students.

School Calendar – A copy of the proposed calendar for the 2023-2024 school year that the Board will consider at tonight's meeting was shared with the committee. Dr. Lewton noted some of the changes in comparison to the 2022-2023 school calendar. There was discussion regarding some differences that are noted in the Calendar Committee Meeting minutes. These minutes are available on the District's website.

Inquiries – There were no other inquiries from the committee.

Other – At the next meeting, the committee will discuss gift ideas for District employees distributed during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week which is held in May. Committee members were asked to bring ideas to the next meeting.

Next Meeting - The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at noon. The location will be determined.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.